



Protection through Prevention

# UPDATE

AN NMCPHC PUBLICATION SUMMER 2012

## HOT TOPICS IN PUBLIC HEALTH...

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► [Norovirus Illnesses in  
the Fleet](#)

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Alcohol Use](#)

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## Vice Admiral Nathan Visits NMCPHC—Sets the Tone for Public Health Delivery Navy-wide

NMCPHC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

### PORTSMOUTH Va.—

The U.S. Navy Surgeon General stressed the importance of public health in executing the Navy's overall medical readiness mission to military and civilian staff of the Navy and Marine Corps Public Health Center (NMCPHC) here, Aug. 16.

During his all-hands call, Vice Adm. Matthew L. Nathan, Navy Surgeon General and Chief, Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, shared his thoughts on public health's role in ensuring readiness, citing preventable disease, illness and injury as primary threats to the war-fighter.

"Readiness is the hallmark of what we do, it's our corporate ethos," said Nathan. "Your job is to ensure that Sailors and Marines don't have to worry about preventable



**PORTSMOUTH, Va.**—Vice Adm. Matthew L. Nathan, U.S. Navy surgeon general and chief, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery fields questions from NMCPHC staff during an all-hands Admiral's Call, part of his Aug. 16 visit to NMCPHC.

disease."

According to Nathan, the Navy and Marine Corps have never been more important to our country than they are now.

"The Navy and Marine Corps team is agile and has to be the most ready of all the forces," said Nathan. "We are the world's ambassador, and we are the world's 911."

A key part of Nathan's

message to the NMCPHC staff was being able to understand the connection between what they do and how it relates the Navy's mission.

"When someone asks what you do, you need to express it not simply in terms of what specifically you do, but how you keep the Fleet going and help Sailors and Marines meet the demand signals for

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## ... From the CO's Desk



**CAPT. MICHAEL J. MACINSKI**  
COMMANDING OFFICER  
NMCPHC

***"This is not a start-finish evolution, but a continuous process of making innovation and efficiency "built in" to the way we do business."***

Welcome to our summer edition of the Public Health Update for 2012. It's amazing to think that we're already into September! NMCPHC and its field activities have enjoyed a busy summer with some changes and many success stories!

First, NMCPHC was realigned from Navy Medical Support Command to BUMED, as part of the Surgeon General's strategic vision for Navy Medicine. NMCPHC now reports directly to BUMED Code M3.

This transition is seamless for our customers as our products and services still provide relevant public health expertise to the Fleet, Marine Corps, deployed forces, and medical treatment facilities around the globe.

In the last several months we have had the pleasure of hosting many high profile visitors, to include RADM Donald Gintzig, MSC, USN; RADM Michael Mittleman, Deputy Surgeon General and our Surgeon General, VADM Matthew Nathan. They all had the opportunity to view our products and services, and meet the people at NMCPHC responsible for development and sustainment of helping Sailors and Marines stay ready - anywhere, anytime.

Our strategic planning process at NMCPHC is maturing with a "full court press" aligning products and services to CNO and Surgeon Gen-

eral's guidance, and assure that we are focusing our efforts on helping our Naval forces remain operationally ready.

Improvements to our website, metrics to measure successes, and methods for enhancing value to the enterprise remain our focus. One such success story is NMCPHC's work in Health Promotion, which has gained National recognition as "best practice", and has brought us welcomed attention from not only BUMED but the U. S. Surgeon General, VADM Regina Benjamin, USPHS who will be coming to Norfolk this October to assist us with our Health Promotion campaign launch.

Navy and Marine Corps Public Health Center and its field activities consider it an honor and a privilege to provide our expertise in public health to service-members and families. Have a great fall season!

Navy & Marine Corps Public Health Center  
Public Health Update

Capt. Michael J. Macinski  
*Commanding Officer*

Capt. Robert W. Farr  
*Executive Officer*

Robert Searles  
*Command Master Chief*

Hugh J. Cox  
*Public Affairs Officer*

S U M M E R 2 0 1 2

## CMC Corner

Greetings NMCPHC, I hope all is well. Summer has come and gone in what seems like the blink of an eye. I believe that it went by so fast because we were so busy. The re-alignment with BUMED is complete and we now reside under code M3. VADM Nathan and RDML Moulton have visited and were impressed with each of our directorates' accomplishments.

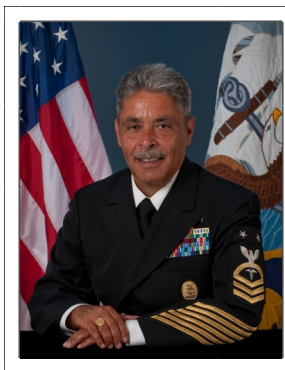
We completed our Command Climate Survey and not surprisingly it was better than the last. Scoring higher not only against commands similar to ours but exceeding the Navy's average across the board. A true accomplishment when you take into consideration the extent of diversity that makes up our staff. That is not to say we don't have areas to improve. In the coming weeks we will address those areas with focus groups and training. Your comments are important and provide a compass we can as a whole navigate by.

*"...I am proud and humbled to work with such professionals."*

The 2012 Command picnic was a total success. The venue, food and camaraderie was phenomenal. I would be remiss if I did not mention the bravery and self-

lessness of Larry and Azad who won the honor of a delicious pie in the face. I too enjoyed the honor of a whipped cream facial collision. The QOL ap-

preciates all who donated to the cause. Thank you to the members of the QOL that made this wonderful event happen. The Diversity committee has been very busy providing insight into the cultures that make up our command. The Asian Pacific celebration set a standard I hope to see with each celebration. Thanks to El Rone who spearheaded such a memorable affair. LT Rodriquez has



HMCM (SW/FMF)  
ROBERT E. SEARLES, II.  
COMMAND MASTER CHIEF  
NMCPHC

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## Future Surface Warfare Medical Officers Get the Facts on Sexual Health and Responsibility

NMCPHC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

**PORTSMOUTH, Va.** — 25 Navy medical department students attending the Surface Warfare Medical Officer Indoc-trination Course (SWMOIC), Portsmouth, Va., were given the facts on managing their respective ships' Sexual Health and Responsibility Program (SHARP) in a lecture held here July 16.

Mr. Michael R. (Bob) MacDonald, public health educator with NMCPHC, provided the 50-minute overview that included facts, policy guidance, references, and resources for

the students preparing for assignment to a wide variety of U.S. Navy surface ships.

According to MacDonald, the goal of sexual health education for SWMIOC students is to increase their capacity to prevent unplanned pregnancies, HIV and other sexually transmitted infections among

**"...WE ARE HERE TO  
EDUCATE THE NEWEST  
MEDICAL  
PROFESSIONALS  
HEADED OUT TO THE  
FLEET."**

**-LT. CMDR. LAURIE  
BASABE, SWMIOC  
COORDINATOR**

their crew.

"SWMIOC is an essential opportunity to speak with medical officers going to sea duty about the impact of unplanned pregnancy and HIV in the Navy, and to share ideas, tools and strategies to help them promote and protect the sexual health of their new crew," (Continued on page 5)



## Navy Environmental Preventive Medicine Unit Six (NEPMU6) Provides Korean Navy RIMPAC Force Health Protection Support

LT. BRYAN HEINTSCHEL, NEPMU6 PUBLIC AFFAIRS

PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii. — Navy Environmental and Preventive Medicine Unit Six (NEPMU6) provided public health fleet support to the Republic of Korea (ROK) Navy on July 2, 2012.

The ROKS Yulgok Yi-I (DDG-992) requested water quality screening assistance during their visit to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, as part of the 2012 Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) Exercise.

A preventive medicine team from NEPMU6 collaborated with the ROK ship's medical staff to provide the expertise and equipment necessary to ensure their potable

water met all ROK quarterly mandated standards.

According to Lt. Jungyoon Lee, Senior Medical Officer from the Yulgok Yi-I, the ship's leadership was extremely grateful to NEPMU6 for providing critically needed preventive medicine support in such a timely manner.

NEPMU6 offers public health support to all visiting nations participating in RIMPAC 2012. Their staff specializes in disease threat assessment, epidemiology, environmental health and sanitation, industrial hygiene and safety, medical entomology and microbiology.

RIMPAC 2012 runs from June 27 – Aug. 3, and involves

22 nations, 40 surface ships, six

**“...THE SHIP'S  
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TIMELY MANNER.”**

**—LT. JUNGYOON LEE  
YULGOK YI-I**

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**PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii.** — NEPMU6 staff (Lt. Claes-Jacobson and Lt. J.G. Sterling), collect water samples aboard the ROKS Yulgok Yi-I (DDG-992) during RIMPAC 2012. (Photo by HM1 Michael Williams, NEPMU-6)

For more information, visit us online at [www.nmcphc.med.navy.mil](http://www.nmcphc.med.navy.mil)  
or follow us on



## Future Surface Warfare Medical Officers Get the Facts on Sexual Health and Responsibility

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said MacDonald.

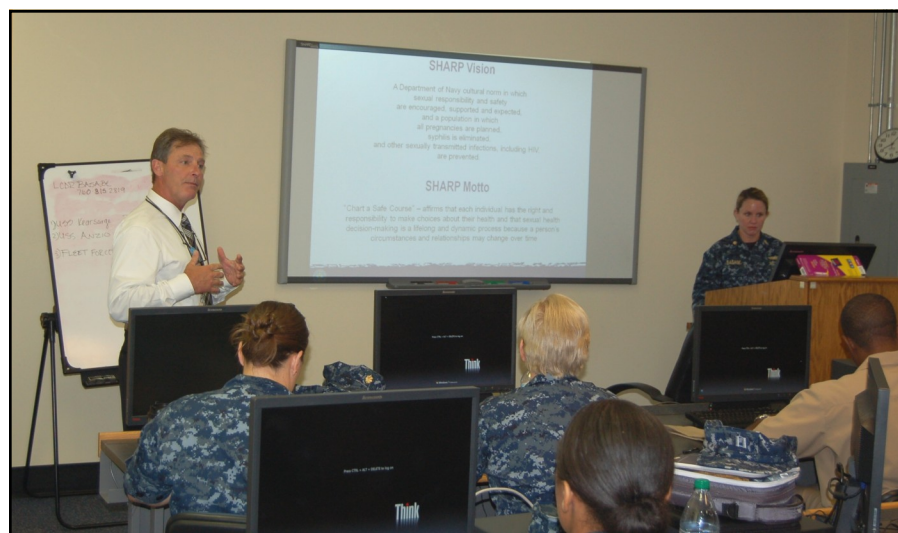
SHARP training is an important part of the SWMIOC curriculum that is ultimately designed to prepare newly assigned Navy medical department officers, including Medical Corps, Dental Corps, Medical Service Corps and Nurse Corps officers, for their initial tour aboard ship.

SWMIOC is a three week introductory program and includes topics in administration, preventive and occupational medicine programs, health promotion and wellness, humanitarian operations and medical evacuation.

Clinical topics of special interest include heat and cold injuries, burn management, orthopedic trauma, triage, chemical and biological warfare.

Students are also trained in shipboard firefighting, helicopter egress, and damage control.

"We are here to educate the newest medical professionals headed out to the Fleet," said Lt.



**PORTSMOUTH, Va.**—Mr. Bob MacDonald, NMCPHC public health educator, addresses a class of 25 Navy medical department officers attending the Surface Warfare Medical Officer Indoctrination Course, Portsmouth, Va

Cmdr. Laurie Basabe, SWMIOC Coordinator. "Our goal is to familiarize them with being both a naval officer at sea and caring for patients onboard ship."

The SWMIOC is only offered once a year on each coast and MacDonald makes certain that SHARP's key points are emphasized during his 50-minute block.

"An additional benefit of speaking with SWMIOC students

is establishing professional, ongoing connections with them," said MacDonald. "Many former SWMIOC students have subsequently partnered with SHARP for the delivery of sexual health training on their ships."

For more information on the Navy's SHARP, visit the NMCPHC website at: [http://www.nmcphe.med.navy.mil/Healthy\\_Living/Sexual\\_Health/](http://www.nmcphe.med.navy.mil/Healthy_Living/Sexual_Health/)

## USS George H.W. Bush Physician Recognized for Contributions to Navy Public Health

NMCPHC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

USS GEORGE H. W. BUSH, PORTSMOUTH, Va. — Cmdr. Kimberly Toone, the Senior Medical Officer (SMO) on board the USS George H. W. Bush (CVN 77) was recognized for her contributions to Navy Public Health at an award ceremony held

on board the carrier July 31.

Cmdr. Toone, a Florida native, is the Navy's 2011 recipient of the Rear Adm. Charles S. Stephenson Award.

The award recognizes excellence in Navy Occupational Health, Preventive Medicine, and Health Promotion programs at the command level and is given in

honor of Rear Adm. Stephenson, a pioneer in the field of preventive medicine who played a key role in the development of Navy Preventive Medicine Programs during World War II.

As the ship's SMO, Toone is responsible for the health and medical readiness of over 3000 active duty (Continued on page 8)



# Military Sealift Command Adopts Navy's Tool for Assessing Healthy Behavior

NMCPHC PUBLIC AFFAIRS

PORTSMOUTH, Va. — The Navy and Marine Corps Public Health Center (NMCPHC) announced today the development of a tool to help Military Sealift Command (MSC) better assess the health and wellness of Civilian Mariners (CIVMARS).

NMCPHC designed a Civilian Mariner Health Risk Assessment (HRA) to meet the specific needs of the CIVMAR community, a mature workforce with average ages ranging from 45 – 50 years that provides the operational backbone of the MSC's sea-going mission, including the Combat Logistics Force (CLF).

The Civilian Mariner HRA consists of 25 questions designed to measure various health indicators and lifestyle behaviors. It is intended to help medical professionals, including the Shipboard Medical Services Officers (MSO) for MSC, whose function is similar to Navy Independent Duty Hospital Corpsmen aboard Naval ships, assess the lifestyle behavior risks of their patients, educate mariners on how to reduce their health risks, and possibly reduce medical evacuations while at sea.

"Although a general adult HRA could be used within the Civilian Mariner community, health-care providers realize that many adults in this age group may begin to experience age-related health problems," said Dr. Steve Heaston, Public Health Educator with NMCPHC. "For example,



**USNS LEWIS AND CLARK** — Aboard USNS Lewis and Clark, Medical Services Officer Maria Rodriguez (right) reviews First Officer Robert Reese's health risk assessment findings. USNS Photo by Ms. Susan Melow, MSC Public Affairs

cardiovascular disease may begin to appear as a result of decades of poor nutrition, high salt intake, lack of aerobic activity, and smoking."

According to Dr. Heaston, who designed the tool, the Civilian Mariner HRA also addresses more dental and prescription drug use issues, as opposed to the HRA used for Sailors and Marines.

"Even if more chronic disease processes are expected to be identified, it's vital to delay or prevent the numerous medical complications that can result," said Heaston.

CIVMARs that participate in

the survey receive a personal report containing their assessment results, a general statement on each health topic and a website for detailed information from credible sources of health information. The MSO can provide additional clarification, help mariners identify strategies to reduce risk, and motivate them to be more engaged in managing their health.

The HRA also allows MSC to generate group reports that display overall results for any of the four MSC regions. MSC will also be able to track trends in order to see if their health programs are effective in reducing

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or follow us on



# The U.S. Navy Systematic Biological Collection: 350,000 Specimens and Growing

LT MARCUS McDONOUGH, NECE PUBLIC AFFAIRS

## JACKSONVILLE, Fla.—

The U.S. Navy Systematic Biological Collection, housed at the Navy Entomology Center of Excellence (NECE), Jacksonville Fla., is a one-of-a-kind reference tool within the Department of Defense (DoD).

The 350,000 specimen collection focuses mainly on mosquitoes, flies and gnats. Other insects along with plant, marine, arachnid, snake and fossil specimens are also represented in the collection.

The collection started in 1949 as a repository for medically significant pest collected by the Malaria Control teams in the Pacific.

According to Dr. Andrew Beck, Department Head of Training at NECE and curator of the collection, the collection represents specimens from every continent, except Antarctica.

“This extensive, carefully catalogued collection exemplifies NECE’s wide range of unique capabilities and commitment to the success of our customers,” said Cmdr Eric Hoffman, NECE Officer-in-Charge.

Currently the collection has three parts: the systematic collection, training collection and public affairs collection.

The systematic collection carries on the original goal of the collection, as a repository for specimens.

“It (the systematic collection) enhances our ability to accurately identify a diversity of specimens collected world-wide, understand their biology and apply this



*JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Dr. Andrew Beck, NECE Department Head of Training, examines a specimen that’s part of the U.S. Navy Systematic Biological Collection housed at the Navy Entomology Center of Excellence.*

knowledge to effectively develop and implement control strategies against those that transmit human disease,” said Cmdr. Hoffman.

The training collection is used to teach service members what pests are present in areas they are deploying and how to distinguish them from similar insects. This allows preventive medicine technicians and entomologists to have a better understanding of the pests they will face when deployed.

The training collection is also used to teach courses taught at NECE and other commands. At NECE it is used to teach insect identification to civilian employees and contractors during the Category 8 Pesticide Applicator Certification and Re-certification courses, which ensures that all pest management professionals working on DoD facilities are able

to provide effective pest control and safely apply pesticides in accordance with DoD and EPA regulations.

According to Beck, identification is the cornerstone of pest management operations. Proper pest identification is needed to correctly prescribe control measures.

This collection gives students a chance to work with real insects, which ultimately improves the quality of pest control rendered on DoD facilities.

“The training collection is also used at other installations as teaching aids,” said Dr. Beck. “We provide specimens to the Joint Service Training School in San Antonio Texas as well as the Independent Duty Corpsman School.”

The public affairs collection consists of large, (Continued on page 11)



# USS George H.W. Bush Physician Recognized for Contributions to Navy Public Health

(Continued from page 5) personnel assigned to the Bush. While deployed, Toone had the added responsibility of oversight for the health and well-being of an additional 3000 personnel assigned to other U.S. Navy and coalition ships.

"The primary goal of a Carrier Senior Medical Officer is maintaining a ready force to support the ship's overall mission," said Toone. "Preventive medicine and health promotions are the primary means to accomplish that goal and the ship's medical department was extremely effective at providing those services to all CVN 77 and CVW 8 Sailors."

According to Capt. Brian Luther, USS George H. W. Bush Commanding Officer, Cmdr. Toone successfully managed the health of the crew throughout 2011 that included deployments in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and New Dawn.

"It was no surprise to see Cmdr. Toone selected for this recognition. Her department is leading the fleet in readiness and patient care," said Luther. "From

emergent to preventative care, the physicians, nurses, specialists, and corpsman do their best every day for every Sailor on board GHWB. There's no better care anywhere and it shows in the



**PORTSMOUTH** — Cmdr. Kimberly Toone, Senior Medical Officer, USS GEORGE H.W. BUSH (CVN 77) receives the Rear Admiral Charles S. Stephenson Award from Capt. Wesley Farr, Executive Officer, NMCPHC, Aug., for excellence in public health.

medical department's contribution to readiness and morale."

Among the many noteworthy contributions outlined in the award, Toone is credited with developing a recall system to enhance the crew's access to medical care and "one-stop-shop" process for completing the Periodic Health Assessment (PHA). Both improvements helped reduce patient "no-shows" for medical appointments, ultimately producing a fleet-best 98.4 percent medical readiness rate.

Capt. Wesley Farr, Navy and

Marine Corps Public Health Center (NMCPHC) executive officer presented the Rear Admiral Charles S. Stephenson Award to Toone at an all-officers meeting in the Wardroom and in front of Medical Department staff members in medical spaces onboard the carrier.

"The carrier SMO position is one of the most challenging and rewarding billets in Navy Medicine and Cmdr. Toone is doing an outstanding job," said Farr.

Cmdr. Toone was excited to receive the award and quick to acknowledge the role that her medical department shipmates played in her selection.

"I have great Sailors who do great work for their shipmates," said Toone.

**"...THE PRIMARY GOAL OF A CARRIER SENIOR MEDICAL OFFICER IS MAINTAINING A READY FORCE TO SUPPORT THE SHIP'S OVERALL MISSION..."**

**-CMDR. KIMBERLY TOONE**

**SENIOR MEDICAL OFFICER**

**CVN 77**



## Navy Environmental Preventive Medicine Unit Six (NEPMU6) Provides Korean Navy RIMPAC Force Health Protection Support

(Continued from page 4) submarines, over 200 aircraft and 25,000 personnel engaged in the world's largest international maritime exercise. This will be the 23<sup>rd</sup> exercise in the biennial series taking place in and around the Hawaiian Islands since 1971. For more information on NEPMU6, visit their website at: <http://www.med.navy.mil/sites/nmcscd/nepmu6/Pages/index.html>.

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## CMC Corner

(Continued from page 3) vowed to meet the mark in October for the Hispanic Heritage celebration. (No Pressure). Our Health Promotions committee has been very busy. The chair Mrs. Vickers will in the coming weeks release news that I think will please all with regards to our PT protocol.

Thank you to all of the members of each of these committees. It is your efforts that make this a command folks enjoy being a-part of. Our command climate is the result of your efforts.

NMCPHC has in this quarter experienced many changes of command. Thank you for your outstanding service to all of our out-going Commanding Officers and Officers in Charge. Welcome to all of our incoming, you have large shoes to fill.

We also experienced the retirement of many shipmates. Fair Winds and Following Seas your contribution over the years is truly appreciated. We also have had an influx of new staff members throughout the enterprise Welcome. Take the time to say hello and introduce yourself to our new staff.

One year ago the Boss directed us to come up with a Strategic Plan. Booz Allen Hamilton was contracted to assist in the process. Your efforts to this goal have been outstanding and reflect in the healthy state of our command.

BUMED aligned us in code M3 because our directorates have a clear concise way ahead to support the Fleet.

Your positive efforts toward strategic alignment were clearly delineated when VADM Nathan visited, as we began to discuss a directorate he would express his vision and the slides we presented reflected his words "Spot On".

I am proud and humbled to work with such professionals.

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***“Carrying out the multitude of administrative tasks that fall to the leader is a chore that never ends. A problem solved, a decision made, leads one only to the next problem to be dealt with, the next decision to be made. It is a never ending series of tasks, each of which must be completed, each of which must be done well. The leader can never rest on his laurels for the next challenge is just hours, sometimes moments away.” - Admiral Mike Boorda***

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(Continued from front page)

what they need,” said Nathan.

Nathan also expressed his gratitude for the hard work and dedication of the Navy Public Health team.

“Thank you for standing the watch,” said Nathan. “I want to thank you on behalf of those whose lives we help because of what you do. You change lives.”

Capt. Michael Macinski, NMCPHC Commanding Officer, and his executive staff briefed Nathan on current initiatives, programs and technologies in Navy public health.

During the briefing, Nathan took the opportunity to define readiness, value and jointness, his key priorities for 2012 and beyond.

Nathan also emphasized the importance of metrics and measuring what we do for our customers. He was impressed with NMCPHC’s efforts towards developing tools to measure metrics that are often difficult to capture and quantify at the headquarters level.

Following his all-hands Admiral’s Call, Nathan had lunch with the military staff then toured NMCPHC spaces where he had an opportunity to engage staff members one-on-one.

Nathan concluded his trip to NMCPHC with a visit to the Navy Environmental Preventive Medicine Unit Two (NEPMU2), Norfolk.

NEPMU2 is one of NMCPHC’s three preventive medicine units that provide a myriad of public health services directly to the Fleet.

As the U.S. Navy Surgeon General and Chief, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, Nathan leads a global healthcare network of 63,000 Navy medical personnel around the world who provide high-quality health care to more than one million eligible beneficiaries. Navy Medicine personnel deploy with Sailors and Marines worldwide, providing critical mission support aboard ship, in the air, under the sea and on the battlefield.

***“READINESS IS THE HALLMARK OF WHAT WE DO, IT’S OUR CORPORATE ETHOS,” SAID NATHAN. “YOUR JOB IS TO ENSURE THAT SAILORS AND MARINES DON’T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT PREVENTABLE DISEASE.”***

***-VADM NATHAN***

***U.S. NAVY SURGEON GENERAL***



**PORTSMOUTH, Va.—** Vice Adm. Matthew L. Nathan, U.S. Navy surgeon general and chief, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery shares a few words with Lt. Dawn Whiting, NC, USNR, Navy and Marine Corps Public Health Center (NMCPHC) Department Head for Health Promotion and Wellness during his Aug. 16 visit to NMCPHC.

## Military Sealift Command Adopts Navy's Tool for Assessing Healthy Behavior

(Continued from page 6) health risks. According to Ms. Christine McGrath, a Public Health Educator with the Military Sealift Command, MSC has been using HRAs for approximately five years. "We started using the new CIVMAR HRA developed by NMCPHC in January 2012. It is done at both CSU (CIVMAR Support Unit) East (Norfolk, VA) and West (San Diego, CA) during the check-in process," said McGrath. "As of March 31, 2012, five hundred sixty-nine HRAs have been completed ashore."

McGrath worked closely with NMCPHC staff to tailor an HRA survey that would best meet the needs of the MSC workforce that often perform strenuous shipboard duties for extended periods at sea.

CLF ships provide a broad range of supplies that enable the Navy fleet to remain at sea, on station and combat ready for extended periods of time, and unlike their Navy combatant counterparts, are manned by federal civil service mariner crews. MSC is in the process of getting the Civilian Mariner HRA program on all CFL ships by January 2013.

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## The U.S. Navy Systematic Biological Collection: 350,000 Specimens and Growing

(Continued from page 7) showy insects that are used for outreach activities.

"NECE has a strong connection to the local community. We take the public affairs collection when we visit local schools for presentations on entomology," said Dr. Beck. "There are several different displays set up depending on the age group we are presenting to."

According to Dr. Beck, while the collection is large, it is actively expanding. "Most of the additions are insects collected by military personnel while on deployment but we also add to the collection when testing new equipment like mosquito traps," said Dr. Beck.

Dr. Beck encourages DoD and civilian personnel to view and utilize the U.S. Navy Systematic Biological Collection.

For more information about utilizing the collection or scheduling an outreach event, please contact NECE at 904-542-2424. For more information about medical entomology visit the NECE website at: [http://www.nmcphc.med.navy.mil/Field\\_Activities/nece\\_overview.aspx](http://www.nmcphc.med.navy.mil/Field_Activities/nece_overview.aspx)



JACKSONVILLE, Fla.—Sample specimen collection from the U.S. Navy Systematic Biological Collection



# Navy Environmental Preventive Medicine Unit Two Hosts U.S. Navy Surgeon General

**NORFOLK, Va.**— Vice Adm. Matthew L. Nathan, Navy Surgeon General and Chief, Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, visited Navy Environmental and Preventive Medicine Unit TWO (NEPMU-2) on August 16 as part of his visit to the Navy and Marine Corps Public Health Center (NMCPHC).

Nathan's visit to NEPMU-2 included discussions with command subject matter experts and a tour of the NEPMU-2 facilities and a field exercise of the Forward Deployable Preventive Medicine Unit (FDPMU).

He followed the path of an unknown sample being processed by the FDPMU staff with Capt. Michael Macinski, NMCPHC Commanding Officer and Cmdr. Andrew Vaughn, NEPMU-2 Officer-in-Charge on the grounds of NEPMU-2.

"What an amazing assembly of personnel, equipment, and expertise that provides reference lab capabilities in the most austere forward deployed environments," said Nathan.

The FDPMU is the only deployable preventive medicine platform that can launch a 13 person team

within 96 hours with advanced chemical, biological, and radiological detection and real-time analysis of public health risks. The task-organized teams provide scientific depth with a small footprint and they also provide Civil Affairs support and disaster relief with humanitarian assistance.

The unit has a long operational history; 18 FDPMU teams have deployed since 2003 to Pakistan and Afghanistan in support of OIF, OEF, and provided humanitarian assistance to Haiti and the areas impacted by Hurricane Katrina.

In garrison, FDPMU staff hone their skills by providing Fleet preventive medicine support, public health training, biological testing, medical surveillance and outbreak response.

"Navy Medicine's primary charge is support to the war-fighter. Force Health Protection is a major pillar in that," said Nathan, adding that the ability to minimize environmental risks and prevent illness, disease, and injury is a huge lever in mission success for operational forces.

"History has shown that over time, the impact of disease, illness, and non-battle injuries can be the most limiting factor in mission readiness and availability," said Nathan.

During the past year, a novel norovirus surveillance kit was developed and validated at NEPMU-2 that has the potential to help assess the burden of viral gastroenteritis in the Fleet. Norovirus is



**NORFOLK, Va.** — Navy Surgeon General, Vice Admiral Nathan, inquires as to if the substance is identified as a possible biological agent. Chief Lanning explains the procedures for transferring the unknown sample to the Microbiology Component for further analysis.

a highly contagious disease that causes diarrhea and it can rapidly spread in the confined environment onboard a ship. Nathan stressed that the capability to do real-time, on-scene analysis, at the fleet or forward operating areas can be critical in the prevention and/or treatment of potentially mission-crippling illnesses.

**"NAVY MEDICINE'S  
PRIMARY CHARGE IS  
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WARFIGHTER. FORCE  
HEALTH PROTECTION  
IS A MAJOR PILLAR IN  
THAT ...."**

**-VICE ADM. MATTHEW NATHAN,  
U.S. NAVY SURGEON**